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The Romulus News

OCTOBER 8, 2004 – OCTOBER 21, 2004 "the little paper" VOLUME 18 NUMBER 6

Romulus City Council Reinstates Miller

By Kristi Stephens

Romulus City Councilman Charles Miller, who submitted a letter of resignation to City Clerk Linda Choate on September 13, has been reinstated to his seat by a unanimous vote of his Council colleagues.

Miller's initial decision to resign followed a Council study session on the City's water shut-off policy. Miller said he became upset when Mayor Alan R. Lambert and others at the meeting showed what he perceived to be "insensitivity" to the needs of the City's less fortunate residents.

"I understand the City's need to be financially solvent," Miller told *The Romulus News*, "but we need to do more for our citizens in these difficult economic times."

Some days after submitting his resignation, however, Miller had a change of heart. He approached other Council members prior to their September 27 meeting, expressing his desire to retract his resignation. He believed that, since he verbally requested the retraction *before* Council took any official action, there should be no problem with immediately resuming his seat.

Council, unsure about the laws governing such an unusual situation, "acknowledged" (as opposed to "accepted") Miller's letter of resignation with an official resolution, but asked City attorney Barry Seifman to come back with an opinion regarding the proper course of procedure for either returning Miller to his seat or replacing him with another person.

On Monday, October 4, Seifman discussed his findings with Council.

"This is not a case where it's clear one way or the other," he said.

In reference to a 1986 Michigan Attorney General's opinion that, according to both Miller and Councilwoman Debbie Romak, should allow Miller to retract his resignation without any interference, Seifman stated, "They relied ... upon a case dealing with townships in that AG's opinion. The problem with that is ... townships are more statutory controlled, which means state law. We in Romulus are a 'home-rule charter' city, and our charter is our bible. ... What another city might have [in] its charter may be interpreted one way, and our charter be interpreted a different way."

He continued, "Whether a court will agree with that, you don't know. These are gray areas; they aren't black or white where you can look at them definitively. But I think that our charter is different enough that it shows a vacancy."

Seifman further supported his belief by adding, "Arguably, when a process for ... resignation requires that it be in writing and filed with the clerk, [then] if there is recanting or rescinding, you would expect that it would be in the same form – in written form."

After further discussion, Councilman Bill Wadsworth initiated a motion to recognize a vacancy on the Council.

"Based on the last Council meeting

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Two-year Teacher Contract Ratified

Members of the Wayne County/Romulus Education Association and the Romulus Community Schools negotiations team were all smiles after reaching agreement on a new two-year teacher contract, which will cover the 2004–2005 and 2005–2006 school years. Pictured are: (from left) front – Jason Salhaney (REA president) and Dawn Sims (REA representative); back – Gary Banas (REA representative), Shawn Dickson (REA representative), Larry Digon (director, Wayne County Uniserve), Joel Carr (superintendent), Lynn Behta (REA representative), Fred Schwarz (attorney for the school district), and Ed Clark (director of human resources). ***For story, please see page 6.***

Timely Tidbits ...

Homecoming Wrap-up

Romulus High School's recent Homecoming celebration was an outstanding success. For details, see pages 7–10.

School Board Meeting Broadcasts Resume

Residents who watch broadcasts of Romulus Board of Education meetings may have noticed that the September 27 meeting never aired.

"Technical difficulties prevented us from videotaping the meeting," explained Dick Kruse, district spokesperson. "However, the system should be fixed in time for the meeting on October 11."

Board meetings – held on the second and fourth Monday of each month – are broadcast on a tape-delay basis on cable channel 19 on Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Saturdays at 1 p.m., and Sundays at 6 p.m. For more information, call Kruse at 734-532-1626.

"Hazardous Waste Day" Program Set

The City of Romulus has announced that it will participate with the Downriver Community Conference and the City of Riverview in the Downriver Household Hazardous Waste Day program. The event will be held at the Land Preserve (located at the corner of King and Grange roads in Riverview) on Saturday, October 9, from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

"Residents can help reduce the amount of hazardous materials that are wrongfully landfilled by taking old paint, pesticides, aerosols, and other contaminants to be disposed of properly," said DPW director Carl Brooks. "Old electronics with high levels of metal – like VCRs, computers, etc. – will also be accepted. Two mercury-containing thermometers will be accepted per car."

Since the City of Romulus will pay a per-carload fee for its citizens' participation, Brooks is asking that residents team up with their neighbors to save money. ❑

Letters to the Editor

Lambert Criticized for Failure To Return Call

To the Editor:

I called Romulus Mayor Alan Lambert at 8:50 a.m. on Wednesday, September 22, and was told that he does not come in until 9 a.m. My answer was, "Please leave him a message."

Later, I learned that Mayor Lambert's future son-in-law had been badly hurt and was in the hospital, leading the mayor to take three days off for personal business.

Okay, I understand that Mayor Lambert could not return my calls during the three days that he was away from the office. But, it is now (as of this writing) 5 p.m. on Friday, October 1, and I *still* have not heard from him.

One of the most important things for a mayor to do is return residents' telephone calls! And it was a matter of special concern to me that he return my call, since I am a member of the Romulus Cable Commission, and needed to discuss City business with him.

The first three days could be excused, but not the next five.

Does he treat all messages as he treated mine?

Sincerely,
Dolores Witzgall
Romulus

Reader Wants Residents To Decide Bond Issue

Dear Romulus residents:

On August 19, 2004, a public notice placed in *The Romulus Roman* read, in part, "EXHIBIT A – Official notice to electors and taxpayers of the City of Romulus of intent to issue bonds secured by the taxing power of the city and right of referendum.

"In the case of T14E insufficiency of said tax increment revenues, the principal and interest on said bonds shall be payable from the general funds of the City or, if necessary, from Ad Valorem taxes levied upon all taxable property in the City, subject to applicable charter, statutory and constitutional limitations."

After reading this notice, one thing was clear to me: If the City Council allows this proposal to go forward, it's very possible that my property taxes could end up paying for the construction of the new senior citizens center that would be financed by those bonds.

I then decided that the only way I could get my due process would be to circulate a petition asking for a referendum giving all the residents of this community a chance to vote. Let the people decide if they are willing to pay for this facility.

Once the City administration heard of these petitions, Tim Keyes, director of community development, talked with a reporter from *The Romulus Roman.* In a front-page article in the paper's September 9, 2004 edition, Mr. Keyes said it's a shame that politics are driving this issue. Well, shame on Mr. Keyes! I live in this community and pay taxes here. He does not.

I do not have any political ambitions. My goal is to let the residents know the truth as to where the money will come from to fund this project for 10 years. My concern is simple: If the planned-for Downtown Development Authority revenue and Community Development Block Grant funds won't be enough to pay for the bonds, the funds would come from the City's general fund or the taxpayers. Mr. Keyes said *this is just not true.* Didn't he read the public notice?

After asking many questions of many people, it is my understanding that, when selling bonds, the citizens are the co-signers. In simple language, the government is going to get its money from the taxpayers.

Every year, to obtain Community Development Block Grant funding, it must be applied for. Do not be fooled that this proposal is all paid for, and that the money is already there just for this project. This is just not true.

Mr. Keyes also states that the Downtown Development Authority has enough money to pay for the entire project. If this is so, then why are they selling bonds?

In fact, the DDA has about $645,000 at this time. It is public knowledge that the DDA is still in debt for the Goddard Road project that is not yet completely paid for.

The federal government's Department of Housing and Urban Development (source of the CDBG funds) makes no guarantee to any city. What funding you get one year may be different the next year.

The government is sending up red flags every day in the newspapers, warning the cities, "Federal Housing Grants shrink ... HUD is reducing its grant amount this year because of increased competition from communities across the country."

It is a 50/50 chance that we will be responsible for this debt. I ask the residents who signed the petition for me if they are willing to pay; they ask me, how can our voices be heard? They want to vote on this proposal.

City Clerk Linda Choate says that there are 15,000 registered voters in our city. Therefore, we need 1,500 signatures (10% of the registered voters) to

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Around the City

Mayor Alan R. Lambert had plenty of helpful tips for the 100+ residents who turned out for a Neighborhood Watch meeting held at Halecreek Elementary School on September 13. A second meeting is planned for Monday, October 18, from 6 to 8 p.m. Anyone who lives in the Meadows or Greenview subdivisions is welcome to attend.

When the listeners of 94.7 FM "Classic Rock" voted Romulus a Workforce City, Mayor Alan R. Lambert (center) welcomed on-air personality Rhonda Hart (left) and presented her with the Key to the City. WCSX conducted a live broadcast from the Merriman Street Grill on September 24. The event was hosted by the restaurant's owner, Olga Sofikitis (right).

(From left) Firefighter Neal Allgood, Mayor Alan R. Lambert, and firefighter Mike Wojtylko, Jr., posed in front of one of two new fire engines recently delivered to the Romulus Fire Department. The new engines – which, according to Lambert, include the latest technologies for fighting fires – will replace outdated vehicles.

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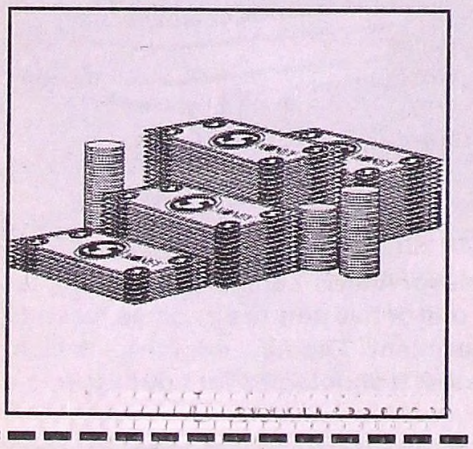

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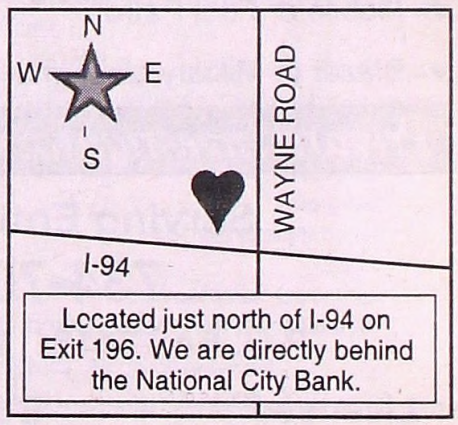

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Cantrell Is School District's Transportation Supervisor

Betty Cantrell has been appointed as the new supervisor of transportation for the Romulus Community Schools. Cantrell will replace Shirley Lamberson, who is retiring from the district.

"Betty is a 14-year employee of the Romulus school district, with a majority of that time served as a bus driver," noted spokesperson Dick Kruse. "She came to the district in 1992 and worked as a bus aide before starting her driving career in 1993.

"Betty's previous work experience included secretarial positions with the Downriver Guidance Clinic and the Lambrecht Company," he added.

Transportation supervisor Cantrell has also held several leadership positions with AFSCME Local 64 during her career. She served four years as bus driver steward, and served an additional two years as president of the group.

"Betty is very experienced in matters that concern the transportation department, and is a valuable addition to our administrative team," said Bill Routhier, director of business and operations for the Romulus school district. "I look forward to working with her in the future." ❑

Betty Cantrell

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Contest Winners Recognized

Congratulations to the Romulus Pumpkin Festival's contest winners.

"Romulus Idols" Contest

Selena Masters (juniors), Samuel Jackson (teens), and Stuart Kerr (adults).

Pumpkin-growing Contest

Shirley Younts (largest).

Sunflower-growing Contests

Willie Johnson (biggest face – 16") and Shirley Younts (biggest face – 16"; tallest – 131.5").

Canning Contests

Sharon Bokor and Helena Lilly (pickles), Robert Cahill (salsa), Jim and Sandy Chapman (jams), and Connie Conner (jellies).

Pie-baking Contests

Kathy Tuttle (pumpkin) and Linda Wolf (apple).

Pie-eating Contests

Joshua Chapman (ages 3 to 4), Bryce Robbins (age 6), Colton Robbins (ages 7 to 8), Lindsey Eames (ages 9 to 10), Jennifer Dick (ages 12 to 15), and Tracy Chapman (adult).

Pumpkin-rolling Contests

Courtney Desantes (under 2), Andrew Bunyak (age 2), Josh Montoy (age 3), Gabrielle Fyfe (age 4 – race #1), Katrina Westley (age 4 – race #2), Cyndirl Banks (ages 5 to 6), Regan Kasibab (age 6), Abigail Arnett (age 7), Devain Newbill (age 8 – race #1), Colton Robbins (age 8 – race #2), Tyler Robbins (age 9), Katrina Bunyak (age 10 – race #1), James Newbill (age 10 – race #2), Stephanie Andrew (age 11), and David Forbush (age 12).

Hay-rolling Contests

Zayne Robbins (age 2 and under), Philip Huff (age 3 – race #1), Mason Robbins (age 3 – race #2), Gabrielle Fyfe (age 4), Quinn Chapman (age 6), Bryce Robbins (age 7), Kayla Bunyak (age 8 – race #1), Joshua Brown and Colton Robbins (tie, age 8 – race #2), Jennifer Cronk (age 9 – race #1), Ryan Kusibab (age 9 – race #2), Shantelle Metcalf (age 10 – race #1), James Chapman (age 10 – race #2), Rebecca Ward (age 11 – race #1), and Diandra Thomas (age 11 – race #2).

Marshmallow Races

Zayne Robbins (age 2), Shawn Arnett (ages 3 to 4), Katlyn Adkins (age 5 – race #1), Dacoda LaPalm (age 5 – race #2), Bryce Robbins (age 6), Quinn Chapman (age 7), Andrea Bruno (age 8), Tyler Robbins (ages 9 to 10), Amber Davidson (ages 11 to 12), and Meriam Izobo (ages 13+).

Sack Races

Mason Robbins (age 3), Josh Chapman (age 4), Abigail Arnett (ages 5 to 7), Colton Robbins (ages 8 to 9), Tyler Robbins (age 10), and Elise Arnett (age 13).

Airplane Races

Cheyenne Kanalos (ages 3 to 4), Vincent Camilleri (age 5), Karra Yeramian (age 6), Felisha Nerone (age 9), Savannah Moffat (age 10), and Carl LaPalm (adult).

Editor's note: Thanks to the City of Romulus for compiling the complete list of contest winners. ❑

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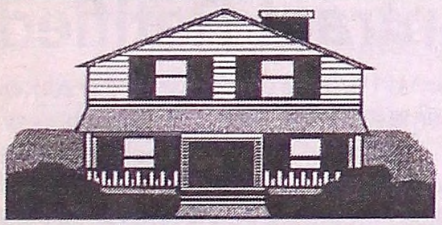

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Romulus City Council Reinstates Charles Miller

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and Resolution 04-395 – and it really saddens me that we even have to come to this; but, unfortunately, we do – I will [move to] recognize that there is a vacancy that now exists on the Romulus City Council. And that's due to Councilman Miller's resignation that he filed with the Clerk on September 13, 2004 ... and the attorney's opinion."

After Councilman LeRoy Burcroff seconded Wadsworth's motion, discussion followed.

"In light of materials that have been presented, I believe that a vacancy *does not* exist," said Romak. "Each of us [was informed] before the meeting started on September 27 – be it verbally or in written form – [that Miller had requested the withdrawal of] his resignation."

Stating her belief that all of her colleagues had probably said to themselves, at one time or another, "I've had it; I've had enough," Romak added, "I think that each of us has become frustrated at one time or another, and I think the only difference here is that he acted on that frustration."

In defense of her position, Romak continued, "The attorney has made it pretty clear to us that, basically, it's in our hands [to determine] if there is a vacancy or not. The charter does not have a provision for the withdrawal of a resignation. ... There's an AG's opinion [and] there are other cases [that support her views], too."

Despite being upset about some of Miller's recent derogatory remarks about the majority of his Council colleagues, Councilman Michael Prybyla also expressed his feeling that no vacancy existed.

"This is very bad for the City, and I know a lot of things have been said in the newspapers that this council doesn't work together, but it does. This council works for the betterment of the City."

After noting his opinion that the Council's September 27 resolution "acknowledging" Miller's resignation was not a valid one, he added, "For the betterment of the City – not the benefit of me or Mr. Miller, but for the betterment of the City – I do believe that there is no vacancy on this council."

Among those who disagreed was Councilman Bill Crova.

"What I see is that [Miller] made a decision to resign, and he *did* resign. He did it in letter form, and we have an interpretation from the lawyer that he has resigned," said Crova. "[However], there's nothing stopping this body from considering Mr. Miller's request to be installed back on the Council through the selection process."

Citing the process that was used once before, when then-Councilman Alan Lambert resigned from office to accept a position with the Romulus Police Department, he stated, "[That] involved looking at the next-highest vote-getter – and I think that the votes of the people are very, very important. ... If you go back and look at, in this particular case, the number-eight person [Michael Wojtylko], because the number-six person [Miller] had decided to resign, that probably would be the most logical person that you would put on this board. But, if Mr. Miller has reconsidered the decision that he had made, then maybe this board can consider putting him back.

"But, to me," he concluded, "it's clear that he resigned when he submitted the letter of resignation to the Clerk, and it was accepted."

Wadsworth's motion to declare the existence of a vacancy passed by a vote of 4–2, with Burcroff, Crova, and Gear in support, and Romak and Prybyla opposed.

After a period of adjournment, Council resumed the meeting and, in keeping with the provisions of the Romulus City Charter, took action to fill Miller's seat.

"Seeing that we have a vacancy on the City Council ... due to a letter of resignation, I would like to nominate Charles Miller to serve the balance of that term," Crova began.

After receiving support from Romak, he continued, "Earlier this evening, I voted to accept the resignation because I felt that, legally, we did receive a resignation. After the resignation was submitted to the clerk, then the individual had second thoughts and tried to retract that resignation. The interpretation of the City attorney was that, once that resignation was time-stamped by the Clerk, it became official."

Stating his staunch belief in the election process, Crova went on, "I was prepared to go forward to the next-highest vote-getter ... which would have been the eighth individual at the last general election. But, Mr. Miller, who has shown an interest in regaining his seat, was the sixth-highest vote-getter, and I truly believe that he was the selection of the people."

Romak agreed, saying, "I think we owe it to the electors of this community to put Mr. Miller back in his seat."

After Wadsworth expressed regret for the whole situation, Burcroff agreed, saying, "As Mr. Wadsworth stated, we didn't do anything as a body [to force Miller from the Council]; those decisions [to resign] were made by Mr. Miller. I agree with the earlier motion that there was a vacancy.

"Yes, I believe in second chances," he continued, "but ... I think Mr. Miller owes this community an apology and this council an apology for his actions. Any public official has to be professional. We don't have to agree on every issue ... [but] we should be able to ask questions and express our viewpoints without losing control. And, if we're going to move forward, I expect not just Mr. Miller, but everyone, to adhere to those same common courtesies. A lot of negative things were said [about the Council] that were totally false.

"I think we need to move forward, move toward more positive things," he continued. "We have a ton of opportunity in this community. And, I feel, personally, that this is a black eye to every elected official up here, and [has a negative impact on] our city. I think it's a shame.

"When we preach integrity, we need to practice it," he concluded.

At the end of the discussion, Council approved Crova's motion to reinstate Miller. After being sworn in by City Clerk Choate, Miller resumed his seat.

Following the meeting, Councilman Miller told *The Romulus News* that his decision to reconsider his resignation was spurred primarily by feedback from local residents.

"I've never seen anything like it," said Miller. "More than a hundred people called me or came by to express their support. I soon realized that I owed it to the community to return to my seat and do the job that they elected me to do."

Although Miller admitted that his "passion and commitment to do the right thing" sometimes leads him to, in the interim, "do the wrong thing," he added that he won't apologize to anyone for caring about people.

"I lead with my heart; I'm not ashamed of that," he stated. "I've always tried to be sensitive to the needs of people who are struggling.

"We can no longer afford to be heartless," he continued. "It's our job to do everything we can to improve the lives of our citizens. Unfortunately, only Councilwoman Romak seems to share my commitment to this ideal."

Miller – who says that he has donated his Council pay to various charitable efforts for more than two years, and supports worthy causes such as food pantries and "no child without a Christmas" programs – called on his colleagues to become more active in the community.

"I would like to see these long-standing council people become *personally* involved. Serving on Council is not a one-day-a-week job, it's an every-day job."

Miller concluded by talking of the future.

"We need people of character, conviction, and moral fiber to come forth and run for office," he explained. "Only in this way can we change our community for the better."

When asked to comment on Miller's return to Council, Mayor Lambert said, "As we all know, Mr. Miller's resignation and reinstatement was strictly a council issue. Our city council did a nice thing in giving him a second chance.

"I hope that Mr. Miller will be able to put his political and personal differences aside to work with all of our elected officials, who are dedicated to improving our community and have been working together with my administration all along," he added. ❑

New Teacher Contract Ratified

Dick Kruse, spokesperson for the Romulus Community Schools, reports that the Romulus Board of Education and the Romulus/Wayne County Education Association have agreed on a new two-year contract for the district's teachers.

"Romulus Education Association teachers ratified the pact on September 22, and the Board approved the contract at its September 27 meeting," Kruse stated.

Superintendent Joel R. Carr noted, "We are pleased to have our negotiations with the Romulus/Wayne County Education Association settled for the next two years. My administration has placed a high priority on achieving labor peace with all the district's bargaining units, and this agreement will allow us to move forward with our educational programs in a cooperative manner."

Ed Clark, director of human resources and negotiations team member, explained, "The financial terms of the agreement included a 1% raise for the 2004–2005 school year, a 1% raise for the start of the first semester of the 2005–2006 school year, and an additional 1% raise at the start of the second semester of the 2005–2006 school year."

Negotiations on fringe benefits resulted in the inclusion of the Community Blue PPO health-care program as well as a 5/10 prescription drug program, he added.

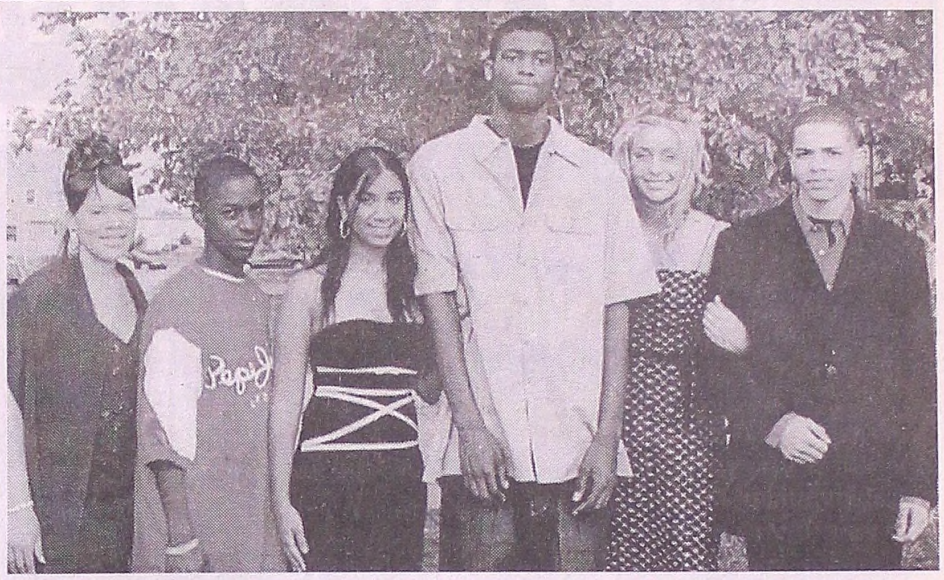
According to Clark, the new contract will call for a teacher work year of 186 days for the current school year and 185 for the 2005–2006 school year. Both years' scheduled work dates include 180 days of student instruction. Further contract language identified the terms of delivery for teacher in-service programs, among other issues.

The Romulus/Wayne County Education Association's bargaining team consisted of Larry Digon of the Wayne County Education Association and Romulus Education Association representatives Jason Salhaney (president), Gary Banas, Shawn Dickson, Dawn Sims, and Lynn Behta. The Board of Education's team was made up of Clark, Bill Routhier (director of business and operations), and attorney Fred Schwarz from the Board's law firm of Keller, Thoma, P.C. ❑

Romulus High School Celebrates Homecoming 2004

Recently retired athletic director Jesse Meriweather (pictured with his wife Diane) was honored for his years of leadership during the game's halftime program.

The halftime ceremonies also included the crowning of the Homecoming King and Queen, seniors Kenise Thompson and Avery Stephenson.



Class Prince and Princess selections were (from left) Tiffani Cannon and Darryl White (freshmen), Kevanna Smith and Devin Searcy (sophomores), and Lindsay Beregsasy and Dawan Jackson (juniors).

Despite a 23–22 overtime loss to Dearborn's Edsel Ford, Romulus High School enjoyed a highly successful Homecoming celebration on Friday, October 1.

Kicking off the day's events was a student pep assembly, followed by the annual parade that featured Grand Marshal Jesse Meriweather leading a train of 23 floats and marching units. Meriweather, who retired last June after 34 years with the Romulus Community Schools, led the district's sports teams to 23 Mega League championships during his 12-year tenure as athletic director.

The game itself drew a crowd of more than 2,500 to the beautiful stadium facilities at Romulus Middle School.

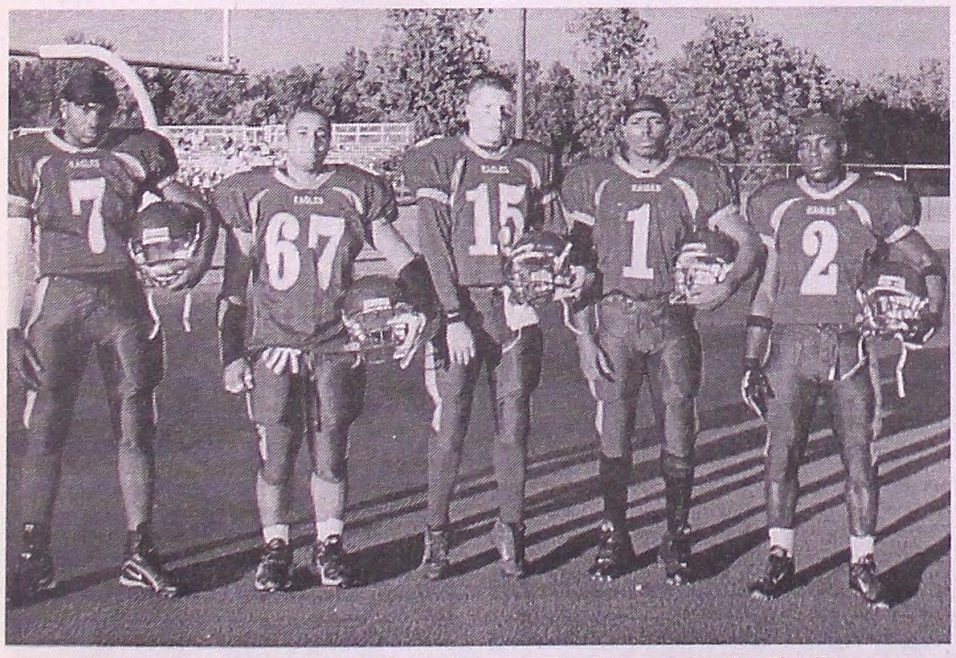
Homecoming coordinator Jason Kahler congratulated all four classes on their spirited participation in Homecoming Week activities, which included the annual float-building contest (won by the seniors) and Spirit Jug competition (which ended in a tie between the seniors and the juniors).

Kahler also congratulated underclassmen Prince and Princess selections Darryl White and Tiffani Cannon (freshmen), Devin Searcy and Kevanna Smith (sophomores), and Dawan Jackson and Lindsay Beregsasy (juniors), as well as seniors Avery Stephenson and Kenise Thompson, who were crowned King and Queen during the game's halftime ceremony. On hand to present Thompson with her royal robe was last year's queen, Sheapree Lee.

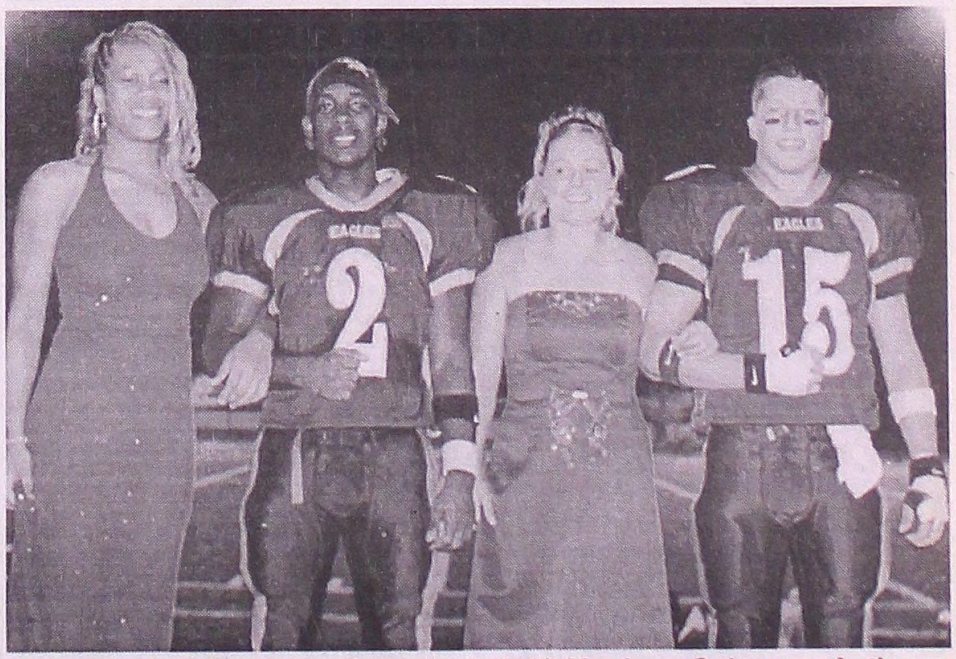
Other members of the seniors' Homecoming Court were Ronnie Brown, Ebony Coleman, Katie Hale, Janet Johnson, Michael Knight, Anthony Price, Philip Roscoe, and Monique Solomon.

Kahler expressed his appreciation to all who showed their support by taking part in the various Homecoming activities. Special thanks went out to the district's elementary schools for their participation in the parade. He also thanked Romulus High School's Marching Eagles and Romulus Middle School's marching band for their performances.

Members of the senior class Homecoming Court included: (from left) front – Queen Kenise Thompson, Katie Hale, Ebony Coleman, Janet Johnson, and Monique Solomon; back – Michael Knight, Ronnie Brown, and King Avery Stephenson. (Not pictured: football co-captains Anthony Price and Philip Roscoe.)



Co-captains of the Romulus High School Eagles varsity football team are (from left) Ahmad Jackson, Malcolm Rhodes, Philip Roscoe, James Kendrick, and Anthony Price.

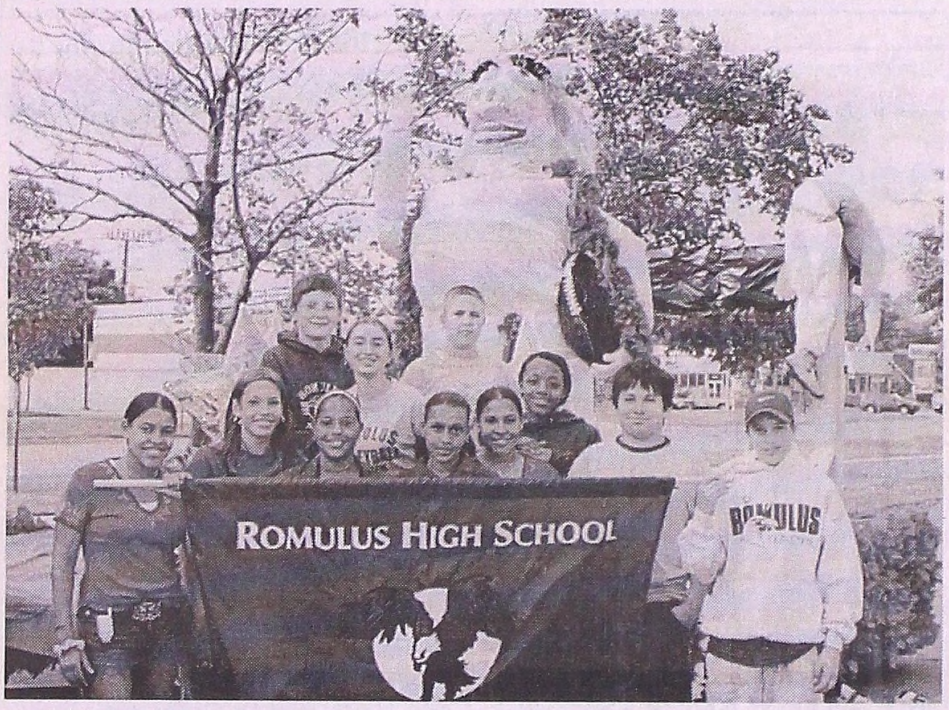


Homecoming Court members (from left) Monique Solomon, Anthony Price, Katie Hale, and Philip Roscoe awaited the announcement of King and Queen selections during halftime ceremonies.

RHS Homecoming

Romulus High School's Marching Eagles were in perfect step in the parade.

The Romulus Middle School band also gave a spirited performance.



In keeping with this year's Hollywood theme, the freshmen class float featured Miss Piggy.

"Glitz and glamor" were the focus of the float entered by the sophomore class.

Jaws was the "star" of the junior class float.

The seniors won the float competition with their Godzilla entry.

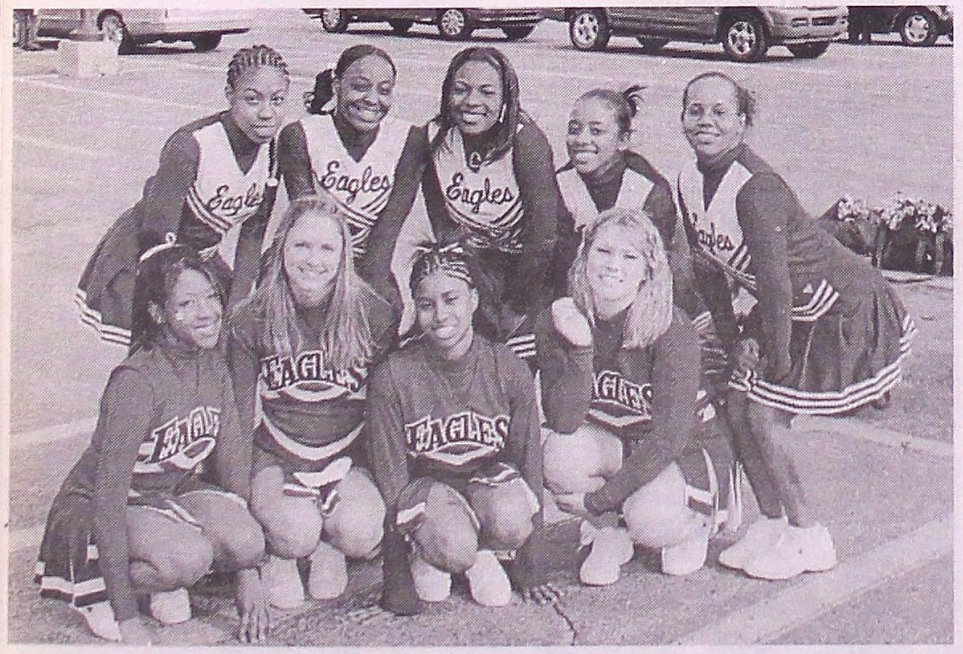
RHS Homecoming

Grand Marshal Jesse Meriweather (right) and his wife Diane led the parade through downtown Romulus to the Middle School football stadium.

Former Homecoming queens Sheapree Lee (left) and Dana Noble enjoyed the parade.

Superintendent Joel R. Carr (back, right) and Grand Marshal Jesse Meriweather (back, left) chatted with Board of Education members (from left) Ken Mientkiewicz, Thomas Kuderik, Betty Lenossi, Celeste Roscoe, Cheryle Buckley, and Niema White before the parade.

Grand Marshal Meriweather (second from left) also visited with former colleagues (from left) Dan Hurst (principal, Romulus High School), Mark Woodson (athletic director, Romulus Community Schools), and Mel Kimbrough (principal, Romulus Middle School).



Romulus High School's cheerleaders were on hand to put extra pep into the parade.

Soon-to-be-crowned queen and king, Kenise Thompson and Avery Stephenson, also took part in the parade.

RHS Homecoming

Taking part in the rade were all six elementaries, including Barth . . .

. . . Cory Elementary . . .

. . . Halecreek Elementary . . .

. . . Merriman Elementary . . .

. . . . Romulus Elementary . . .

. . . and Wick Elementary.

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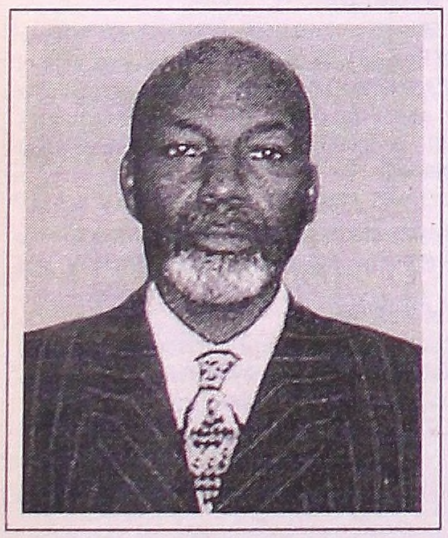

SERVICE TIMES
Sunday Morning Worship: 11:00 am
Sunday Youth Church: 11:00 am
Sunday School: 9:30 am
Sunday New Members Class: 9:45 am
Wednesday Prayer Meeting/Bible Study: 6:00 pm
MONTHLY MEETINGS
Singles Ministry – 2nd Thursday
Marriage Ministry – 3rd Thursday: 7:00 pm
Ladies Ministry – 1st Friday: 7:00 pm
Youth Ministry – 2nd Saturday: 2:00 pm
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Board Adopts Resolution for Regular Election Schedule

During its regular meeting of September 27, the Romulus Community Schools Board of Education adopted a Regular Election Resolution scheduling future regular elections for the office of school board member on the regular election date in May of both odd- and even-numbered years. Dick Kruse, spokesperson for the district, said that the adoption of the resolution was a requirement of the nine "consolidated elections" bills that were signed into law by Governor Jennifer Granholm on January 8, 2004.

"The effect of this resolution will be that regular school board elections will be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in May each year," Kruse explained. "Newly elected board members will then take office on July 1 of the same year."

Kruse noted that the Board had earlier met the laws' requirements by posting proper legal notice of the Regular Election Resolution Meeting in both *The Romulus News* and *The Romulus Roman*.

Also in accordance with the laws, said Kruse, "The Board also closed the Regular Election Resolution Meeting – held on Monday, September 27 – before adopting the Resolution in the Board of Education's regular meeting, also held on September 27."

According to Kruse, the official Regular Election Resolution, which has been filed with the Secretary of State, reads as follows:

"Whereas, the Board of Education of the Romulus Community Schools desires to hold its regular election for the office of school board member(s) at other than the odd year general election, and

"Whereas, the Board of Education of the Romulus Community Schools has held at least one public hearing, with the proper legal notice, on the proposed resolution to hold its regular election at other than the odd year general election, and

"Whereas, the Board of Education of the Romulus Community Schools has closed its public hearing prior to adopting this resolution.

"Now, therefore, be it resolved as follows:

"1. The Board of Education of the Romulus Community Schools chooses to hold its regular election of school board member(s) on the May regular election date in both even and odd years.

"2. The Board of Education of the Romulus Community Schools directs its secretary to file this resolution with the Secretary of State.

"Resolved this 27th day of September, 2004.

"Roll call vote: Passed – 7; Failed – 0. Motion carried.

"Members who voted to pass the resolution: Cheryle Buckley – president; April Frayer – vice president; Celeste Roscoe – secretary; Kenneth Mientkiewicz – treasurer; Niema White – trustee; Betty Lenossi – trustee; and Thomas Kuderik – trustee.

"Members voting nay: none." ❑

Kudra Welcomes Student Teachers

(From left) Cathy Kudra, kindergarten teacher at Halecreek Elementary School, recently welcomed new student teachers from Western Michigan University. They include: Stephanie Nota of Belleville, who will work with Sandra Godbout; Jennifer Clark of Wayne, who will work with Jason Salhaney; and Megan Harrison of Lincoln Park, who will work with Kudra. As the Romulus–WMU liaison, Kudra will also be the lead mentor for all three student teachers.

RHS Soccer Team Still Improving

First-year coach Joel Hockin (back, left) is proud of his young soccer team, which continues to gain experience and skill. Pictured (from left) are: front – Alfonso Garcia, Steven Hicks, Randall Kuhlwein, Thomas Slatinsky, Geoffrey Johnson, Chris Niemann, and Anthony Glimpse; back – Joe Lewis, Mario Aguilar, Ron Kreutzer, Jeremy Trevarrow, Brian Householder, Matt Destrampe, and Jeff Ingle.

Top Dogs Lead the Pack at RMS

Leading the Romulus Middle School Bulldogs football team – under the tutelage of head coach Thom Patterson (left) and assistant coach Mike Madsen (right) – are its returning starters: (from left) front – Demitrius Price, Darius Ellis, and Brad Burcroff; back – Donnavin Searcy and Gary Nemeth. Highlights of the team's season included an all-night sleepover at the school.

ROMULUS COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

36540 Grant Road, Romulus, Michigan 48174

REGULAR MEETING, SEPTEMBER 13, 2004

The Regular Meeting of the Romulus Board of Education held on Monday, September 13, 2004, was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Cheryle Buckley.

Roll call showed members Buckley, April Frayer, Kenneth Mientkiewicz, Niema White, and Thomas Kuderik present. Members Celeste Roscoe and Betty Lenossi were excused. Administrators present were: Joel R. Carr, Superintendent; William Routhier, Director of Business and Operations; and Tom Dolan, Director of Curriculum. Administrator Ed Clark, Director of Human Resources, was excused.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Buckley.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

09/04/01 Moved by Mientkiewicz supported by White to approve the Agenda as amended. Ayes: 5. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

9/04/02 Moved by White supported by Frayer that the Board of Education approve the Minutes of August 23, 2004, and August 31, 2004, as presented. Ayes: 5. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:

Personnel Actions

Mr. Joel R. Carr, Superintendent, offered the following personnel actions for Board approval.

EMPLOYMENT: Karen Justasson, A.M. Kindergarten Teacher, Wick Elementary School, effective August 30, 2004; Andrea Reynolds, Computer and Art Teacher, St. Stephen School, effective August 27, 2004; and Alicia Shamey, Computer, Art, and Physical Education Teacher, St. Anthony Academy, effective August 25, 2004.

9/04/03 Moved by Mientkiewicz supported by Frayer to accept the employment of personnel as submitted. Ayes: 5. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

MEDICAL/CHILD CARE LEAVE OF ABSENCE – FYI: Marlo Walker, Secretary, Merriman Elementary School, effective 2004–2005 school year.

EMPLOYMENT – ADDENDUM: Kyleen Zoltowski, Special Education Teacher, Senior High School, effective September 13, 2004.

9/04/04 Moved by Frayer supported by Kuderik to accept the employment of a special education teacher as submitted. Ayes: 5. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Bills for Payment

9/04/05 Moved by White supported by Mientkiewicz to approve the Bills for Payment as presented by Mr. William Routhier, Director of Business and Operations. Ayes: 5. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Introduction of Coaches – Mark Woodson

Mr. Mark Woodson, Director of Athletics, introduced the Varsity Football Coach, High School Cheerleading Coach, Girls' Basketball Coach, Soccer Coach, and the other coaches within our district.

NCA Presentation

Mrs. Debbie Juriga, Principal of Wick Elementary School, introduced the North Central Association members from within the school district and discussed the Academic Achievement Goals of the district.

FYI – Hot Water Tank Replacement – RHS

Mr. William Routhier, Director of Business and Operations, informed the Board that a 1,400-gallon hot water tank had been purchased and installed at the High School at the low bid of $22,100 from Guardian Plumbing.

Blue Cross / Blue Shield of Michigan Business Agreement

9/04/06 Moved by White supported by Frayer that the Board of Education adopt the Gallagher Benefit Services Business Associate Agreement and authorize the Director of Business and Operations to execute same on behalf of the Romulus Community Schools. Ayes: 5. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Election Date – Discussion and Scheduling of Public Hearing

The Board scheduled a Public Hearing for Monday, September 27, 2004, at 6:15 p.m., and planned to take action to schedule Board elections at the September 27 meeting.

Preliminary Count

Mr. Joel R. Carr, Superintendent, provided the Board of Education with copies of membership reports outlining current enrollment within the school district and indicating that enrollment had increased from September last year.

Communications and Expressions from the Public

There were no communications and expressions from the public.

Items of Interest from the Superintendent

Mr. Joel R. Carr, Superintendent, shared the following Items of Interest with members of the Board of Education: 1) The Merriman Star; 2) Halecreek Newsletter; 3) Communication from Rep. Hoon-Yung Hopgood; 4) Communication from Dan Hurst re: Monica Lewis and Heather Williams; 5) Communication from Dan Hurst re: Rhonda Henry, Chuck Hughes, Kellie Knight, and Latoya Shackelford; and 6) Schedule of 2004–2005 presentations.

QUESTIONS AND/OR CONCERNS OF BOARD MEMBERS:

Mrs. Niema White expressed a thank you to Merriman and Halecreek for having their newsletters available for Board packets. Mrs. April Frayer asked about the status of school calendars. Mr. Ken Mientkiewicz asked about the track at the Middle School and when it was going to be repaired. Mr. Mientkiewicz further asked about computers that were stolen at Wick Elementary and if they were going to be replaced. Mr. William Routhier, Director of Business and Operations, informed him that they will be replaced.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

9/04/07 Moved by White supported by Frayer to convene into Executive Session for the purpose of negotiations. Roll call vote – Ayes: Kuderik, White, Mientkiewicz, Buckley, and Frayer. Ayes: 5. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

The Board convened into Executive Session at 7:19 p.m.

9/04/08 Moved by White supported by Mientkiewicz to convene into Regular Session. Roll call vote – Ayes: Kuderik, White, Mientkiewicz, Buckley, and Frayer. Ayes: 5. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

The Board convened into Regular Session at 7:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

9/04/09 Moved by Frayer supported by Kuderik to adjourn. Ayes: 5. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

The Meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Celeste Roscoe, Secretary
Romulus Board of Education

Community Calendar

- **Register for GED Test** – Romulus/Van Buren Adult Education is inviting anyone interested in taking the GED test to register now. The eight-hour, high-school-level exam will be offered at the Adult Education office (located on Hannan Road) on five different testing dates in October, November, and December. Fee for the test is $100. To sign up, stop in at the Adult Ed office any weekday between 8 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., or at Romulus High School (9650 Wayne Road, north of I-94) any Tuesday or Thursday from 6 to 8 p.m. For more information, call 734-532-1953.
- **Fish Dinners at St. Paul's** – St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, located at the corner of Ellis and Craig streets in New Boston, will be hosting fish dinners from 5 to 7 p.m. on the second Friday of each month. (Next date: October 8.) Everyone is welcome!
- **Grief Support Group Meets** – Crane Funeral Home (36885 Goddard Road, Romulus) offers free grief support group meetings and individual grief counseling to *all* who are in need. Aftercare meetings are scheduled for the second Sunday of each month (next meeting: October 10) from 2 to 3 p.m. For more information, call 734-941-9200.
- **Daddy/Daughter Dance** – The daddy/daughter dance – an annual fall favorite – will be held at Romulus High School on Wednesday, October 13, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. A cost of $8 per couple (plus $2 for each additional daughter) includes music, dancing, refreshments, and a commemorative photo, as well as a flower for each girl. The deadline for registration is Monday, October 11, at 5 p.m. *No tickets will be sold at the door.*
- **ABCs of Genealogical Research** – The Romulus Historical Society will host "The ABCs of Genealogical Research" in the Council Chambers at Romulus City Hall (11111 South Wayne Road, at Goddard) on Wednesday, October 20, at 7 p.m. For more information about this free program, which is open to the public, call Pearl Varner at 734-697-9628.
- **Teen Pregnancy Prevention Group Meets** – The next meeting of the Romulus Teen Pregnancy Prevention Partnership (RTP3) will be held from 7 to 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 20, in Room 507 at Romulus High School (9650 South Wayne Road). All meetings are open to the public.
- ***The Rocky Horror Picture Show*** – The Friends of the Trenton Village Theatre invite the public to attend their upcoming presentations of Richard O'Brien's *The Rocky Horror Picture Show.* Live performances are scheduled for 8 p.m. on October 16, 22, 23, 29, and 30 at the Trenton Village Theatre (2447 Jefferson). A midnight showing is also scheduled for October 30. Tickets are $12 each; on October 16 *only*, buy one ticket and get half off the second. All seats are assigned; seating can be reserved by calling 734-362-8153. Parental advisory: Contains adult subject matter. All proceeds go toward the Trenton Village Theatre building fund. This is a perfect way to celebrate the Halloween holiday!
- **Writers Group Meets** – The Writers Connection – a group designed to bring writers and aspiring writers together – meets at the Romulus Public Library (11121 Wayne Road, south of Goddard) from 6 to 8 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month (next meeting: November 3). Membership is free. For more information about the group, which has been meeting for more than a year, call Maryjo at the library: 734-942-7589.
- **Church of God Announces Service Times** – Romulus Church of God (located at 8770 South Wayne Road) invites the public to attend their weekly services (Sundays at 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Wednesdays at 7 p.m.) as well as their children's programs: Kids for Christ (Sundays at 10:30 a.m.) and Kids Praise (Saturdays from 12 to 2 p.m.). Call 734-729-7243 for info.
- **New Life Baptist Church Welcomes You!** – New Life Baptist Church invites the public to attend weekly worship services on Sundays at 10 a.m. at Wayne County Community College (located at 9555 Haggerty Road, Belleville). For more information, call 734-489-0054 or send an e-mail to smmajcgi2002.
- **Nursery Program Has Openings** – Huron Countryside Co-op Nursery – a nonprofit organization located in St. Paul's Church (corner of Craig and Ellis in New Boston) – is accepting enrollment for its three-/four-year-old classes for the 2004–2005 school year. Call Lynn Emery at 734-782-0876.

To place information in our next issue's Community Calendar, mail it to "the little paper" at P.O. Box 74038, Romulus, MI 48174–0038; FAX it to us at 734-992-2052; or call 734-941-1907

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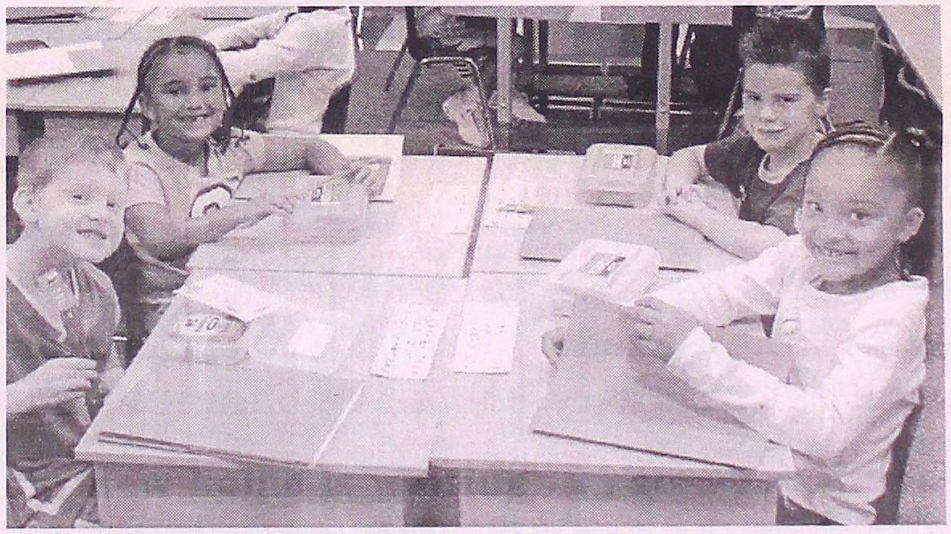
RES Says "Thanks"

On September 2, several members of Detroit Air Transport's Local Lodge 141 paid a visit to Romulus Elementary School to bring school supplies to two first-grade classes. Principal Lynne Mossoian (second from right) was on hand to greet the visitors, including (from left) Clay Parraghi, Ray Painter, Tareia Harris, Kathy Duvall, Stephen Gordon, Paul Cser, Hug-a-Bug the Clown, John Powell, and Marv Sandrin. Special thanks to Kathy Duvall, who organized the event.



(Clockwise, from bottom left) Jacob Stuart, Gabrielle Parker, Chase Patterson, and Au'Lisha Peters were among the many students who quickly put the donated items to use.

Letters to the Editor

continued from page 2

force a referendum. This is very strange to me, because, in the history of Romulus, there have never been 7,000 votes for a mayoral race. Where are these people? How many are still living in this community? How many have passed on, but their names remain on the voters roll?

It appears that time did not allow us to get the required number of signatures that would mandate a referendum. It doesn't matter if we get 20 or 200 signatures. The people want to vote. These petitions represent a lot of voices and votes at election time. The Council can, by their own initiative, schedule a referendum vote and let these voices be heard. This proposal is a huge decision, and should be made by the electors of this city.

Some people are singing that old song, "We elected our seven council members to make these decisions for us." Well, only five council members made this decision. These five members did not tell you what I explained in this letter.

Mr. Keyes wants to make our residents believe that the money is just waiting for us to ask for it. I believe it is time that the voices of this community come before those who only work here. Our council needs to start spending money like it is, indeed, their own.

Sincerely,
Jan Lemmon
Romulus ❑

Sassy Seniors

By Mary E. Clark

Special thanks to Linda Norman, senior citizens program coordinator for the City of Romulus Department of Parks and Recreation, for contributing information to this issue's "Sassy Seniors" column. (For more information about events at Romulus Senior Center, located at 36515 Bibbins, call 734-955-4120.)

Flu Shots

The Romulus Senior Center's annual Flu Shot program – conducted by Oakwood Healthcare – will be held on Friday, October 15, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. *by appointment only.* Oakwood will administer flu shots at no charge to southern and western Wayne County residents age 65 and older with Medicare Part B insurance. People who have an HMO insurance, or those who are under 65, are also welcome, but must pay a fee of $15, which will be collected on site.

For Center visitors' convenience, pneumonia shots will be offered, as well, and an eye doctor will be available for consultations.

For more information, or to make an appointment, call 734-955-4120.

Halloween Luncheon

Mark your calendars for Friday, October 29, when the Romulus Senior Center's monthly luncheon will feature a Halloween theme! The devilishly delicious menu will feature ghoulish meat balls, ghostly mashed potatoes and gravy, zombie green beans, and a witches' brew beverage.

Highlights of the event will include a costume contest, with winners chosen in two categories: "Favorite Person" and "Most Colorful." All costume-clad customers will receive a $1 refund on the $4.50 cost of the meal.

To reserve your seat, sign up at the Center.

Red Hat Society

The Romulus Senior Center is now an official member of Red Hat Society Chapter #40741. For more information, or to join, call the Center or e-mail romulusredhatsociety@yahoo.com.

Movie Day

The Romulus Senior Center will be showing *Gone with the Wind* (starring Clark Gable and Vivien Leigh) on Friday, October 22, at 11:30 a.m. Admission is free. Light refreshments will be served.

Senior-citizen Clubs

Local senior citizens looking to make new friends are invited to join one or both of the clubs that meet at the Romulus Senior Center on a regular basis.

Club #1, which gets together each Tuesday at 11 a.m., holds potlucks, "does lunch" at area restaurants, hosts parties, plays bingo and other games, and schedules seasonal outings.

Upcoming meeting dates include:

- Tuesday, October 12 (meeting, games, and bag lunch);
- Tuesday, October 19 (cider mill trip and lunch out); and
- Tuesday, October 26 (meeting, bingo, and bag lunch).

The Romulus Senior Social Club, a relatively new group that's continuing to grow, meets at 2 p.m. on the second Friday of each month. Yearly dues of $5 help cover costs related to special trips, parties, and other events.

Upcoming meeting dates include:

- Friday, October 8 (executive meeting);
- Wednesday, October 21 (costume ball at the Kay Beard Building, 2:30 p.m.)

For more information about either group, call the Senior Center.

Regular Programs

Besides the many special activities offered at the Romulus Senior Center, a number of regularly scheduled free or low-cost programs are also open to local senior citizens.

They include:

- ceramics (Mondays, 12:30 p.m.),
- Club One (Tuesdays, 11 a.m.),
- bunco (Tuesdays, 1 p.m.),
- bingo (Wednesdays, 1 p.m.),
- "fun night" (Wednesdays, 5 p.m.),
- pinochle (Thursdays, 12:30 p.m.),
- "game day" (Thursdays, 1 to 3 p.m.), and
- quilting (Thursdays, 7 p.m.).

Call the Center for more information.

Walk for Your Health

Ride the Senior Center's van to Wayne County Community College's Western Campus each Monday and Wednesday at 2 p.m. for an hour of safe indoor walking at your own pace. Sign up at the Center to reserve your seat.

The Senior Center strongly urges anyone considering a change in his/her exercise program to consult a doctor beforehand.

Chair Yoga

The Senior Center's new Chair Yoga program meets each Wednesday from 10 to 11 a.m. Cost is $5 per session.

Again, the Senior Center strongly urges anyone considering a change in his/her exercise program to consult a doctor beforehand.

For more information, please call Belinda at 734-942-3029. ❑

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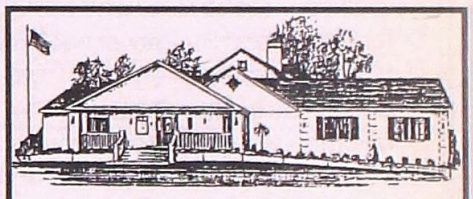

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Obituaries

James Karl Black

James Karl Black of Romulus, Michigan, passed away on Saturday, October 2, 2004, at the age of 63.

The native of Detroit, Michigan, was born on November 12, 1940.

James was a family man who enjoyed giving candy to his grandchildren. Besides his Ford truck, which he loved, his interests included fishing, cooking, old movies, and the lottery.

Surviving James are his wife, Margaret L. "Peggy" Black, 2 sons, James Black, Jr. (Romulus) and Michael T. (Sandy) Black (Taylor, MI); 2 daughters, Sally (Steve) McDonald (Romulus) and Krala (Jim) Van Assche III (Romulus); 2 stepsons, John F. Nehila (Romulus) and Frances E. Nehila (Romulus); 4 stepdaughters, Shirley Parmelee (South Bend, IN), Kathleen Nehila (Wilcox, MI), Mary Lou (Chester) Riddle (Romulus), and Emma A. Mainer (Canton, MI); a brother, Henry Black (Romulus); and 3 sisters, Helene (Joe) Weick (New Boston, MI), Diane (Duane) Bollinger (Flint, MI), and Sue (Ron) Roerich (Romulus).

Among those who predeceased him were his parents, Henry and Laura (Smith) Black; his first wife, Judy A. (Picker) Black; and a brother, Bob Black, who passed away in 1995.

A funeral service was held on Monday, October 4, at Crane Funeral Home (Romulus), with Father Festus Ejimadu (St. Aloysius Catholic Church, Romulus) officiating. Interment was at Michigan Memorial Park (Flat Rock).

Josephine Annie Blaskiewicz

Josephine Annie Blaskiewicz of Romulus (formerly of Taylor), Michigan, passed away on Friday, October 1, 2004, at the age of 86.

The native of Chicago, Illinois, was born on Wednesday, January 9, 1918.

Josephine was a wonderful homemaker who loved cooking, cleaning, and planting flowers. Other interests included shopping, playing bingo and cards, attending horse races, and listening to Polish music. Josephine also enjoyed dancing with her husband, with whom she won several dance contests. She was a member of St. Alfred Catholic Church (Taylor).

Surviving Josephine are 3 children, Eddie Blaskiewicz (Romulus), Cindy (Henry) Flateau (Belleville, MI), and Debbie (Ron) Barron (Romulus); 10 grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

Among those who predeceased her were her parents, Thomas and Hedwig (Jagodka) Glowacz; her husband, Joseph Blaskiewicz, who passed away on June 21, 1988; a daughter, Patricia Cadden; 8 siblings, Thomas, Victoria, Pauline, Helen, Mary, Walter, Max, and Butch; and a sister-in-law, Margie Glowacz.

A funeral mass was held Wednesday, October 6, at St. Anthony Catholic Church (Belleville), with Father Thomas H. Cusick acting as celebrant. Interment was at St. Hedwig Cemetery (Dearborn Heights, MI). Arrangements were made by David C. Brown Funeral Home (Belleville).

Memorial contributions to the Rheumatoid Arthritis Foundation would be greatly appreciated by the Blaskiewicz family.

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Pearl Emma Copp

Pearl Emma Copp – a lifelong resident of the Belleville, Michigan area – passed away on Thursday, September 30, 2004, at the age of 81.

The native of Romulus, Michigan, was born on Saturday, May 26, 1923.

Pearl was employed at the Ford Motor Company's Rawsonville plant from 1956 until her retirement in 1980. She enjoyed crafting and sewing, especially children's clothes and wedding/bridal gowns for her children. She also loved to cook and bake, specializing in wedding cakes.

Surviving Pearl are 6 children, Alice (Robert) Smith (Skidway Lake, MI), George W. (Mickey) Copp (Belleville), Jeannie (Robert) Lee (Willis, MI), Elizabeth Mandelka (Ann Arbor, MI), Margaret (Ron) Haines (Pinckney, MI), and Violet R. (Gary) Grams (Dundee, MI); 3 sisters, Hazel (Frank) Anderson (Milan, MI), Esther Lloyd (Romulus), and Shirley Schettler (Belleville); 26 grandchildren; 24 great-grandchildren; and 2 great-great-grandchildren.

Among those predeceasing her were her parents, John W. and Myrtle (Raymond) Walters; her husband of more than 60 years, George Norman Copp, who passed away on April 11, 2001; a daughter, Thelma Smith; and a sister, Violet Myers.

A funeral service was held on Saturday, October 2, at David C. Brown Funeral Home (Belleville), with Deacon Peter M. Cornell (St. Anthony Catholic Church, Belleville) officiating. Cremation rites were accorded.

Memorial tributes to St. Joseph Mercy Hospice would be greatly appreciated by the Copp family.

Charles W. Goodin

Charles W. Goodin of Romulus, Michigan, passed away on Saturday, September 25, 2004, at the age of 69.

The native of Barbourville, Kentucky, was born on Sunday, January 27, 1935.

Charles worked at Commodity Steel (Warren, MI) until his retirement in 1999. He enjoyed football, casinos, good food, watching TV, and playing the lottery.

Surviving Charles are his wife, Mae (Murphy) Goodin; a son, Gary (Darlene) Goodin (Roseville, MI); a daughter, Patricia (Michael) Blake (Westland, MI); 2 brothers, Earl Goodin (Burnham, IL) and Ezekiel Goodin (Homosassa, FL); and 2 grandchildren.

Among those who predeceased him were his parents, Boy and Pearl M. (Brown) Goodin, as well as his sister, Kay Whitaker, who passed away in 2002.

A funeral service was held Wednesday, September 29, at Crane Funeral Home (Romulus), with Reverend William O'Nan (Faith Community Wesleyan Church, Livonia, MI) officiating. Burial was at Romulus Memorial Cemetery.

Jerry M. Sirhan

Jerry M. Sirhan of Romulus, Michigan, passed away on Sunday, September 26, 2004, at the age of 39.

The native of Detroit, Michigan, was born on Thursday, October 1, 1964.

Jerry, who was employed by the Ford Motor Company, was a lifelong resident of the metro area. He enjoyed drag racing and working on cars, and was a member of the National Hot Rod Association.

Surviving Jerry are his mother, Mary (Mazer) Sirhan; 4 brothers, Robert (Ann) Sirhan (San Antonio, TX), Michael (Imtisal) Sirhan (Las Vegas, NV), Fred (Kathleen) Sirhan (Romulus), and Christopher Sirhan (Brownsville, TX); 3 sisters, Susan Sirhan-Tualgi (San Antonio), Donna Sirhan (San Antonio), and Doris (Kevin) Esklidsen (North Carolina); and 7 nieces and nephews, Freddy, Christopher, Philip, Andre, and Nicholas Sirhan, and Tonya and Joshua Tualgi.

Among those who predeceased Jerry was his father, Fred A. Sirhan, who passed away on Thursday, March 4, 1999.

A funeral service was held on Friday, October 1, at St. Aloysius Catholic Church (Romulus), with Father Festus Ejimadu officiating. Burial was at Romulus Memorial Cemetery.

Funeral arrangements were made by Crane Funeral Home (Romulus). ❑

As a community service, "the little paper" publishes obituary notices, free of charge, for local families. Call 734-941-1907 for information.

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